



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP DEPARTMENT/

NEW BEDFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**CITY OF NEW BEDFORD**  
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

March 21, 2014

NOAA Restoration Center  
Attention: Buzzards Bay RP/EA Review Coordinator  
28 Tarzwell Drive  
Narragansett, R.I. 02882

Re: Palmers Island, New Bedford Harbor  
Draft Tier 1 Funding

Dear Bouchard Transportation Co., Inc. Trustee Council Representatives,

The City of New Bedford is pleased to have been selected for Draft Tier I funding for Palmers island for Lost Coastal Access and Use due to the Bouchard oil spill. Under the Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (RP/EA) Palmers Island is slated to receive \$19,500. These funds will be used for the clean- up of the island shoreline, installation of a pedestrian walkway and kiosk with interpretive trail.

With the selection of the island for funding, we are also able to capitalize on a match with AGM Marine contractors. They have promised the use of their equipment for removal of large pieces of marine debris. The Palmers Island's Lighthouse is also undergoing restoration and will complement this project. Therefore, it is with great enthusiasm that we encourage the selection of Palmers Island for final Tier 1 selection. It meets the requirements of the draft RP/EA for Lost Coastal Access and Use in several ways:

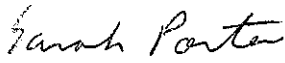
1. It serves the environmental justice community by being situated within walking distance of a large environmental justice neighborhood and therefore serves an important sector of New Bedford's population. The project is further supported by the general public including Old Bedford Village and Hands Across the River, both non-profit volunteer organizations who are active stakeholders in the project.
2. It promotes public access for passive recreational uses such as walking, birding, picnicking and general enjoyment of the natural resources on the island.
3. It shall provide educational benefit to the general public through an interpretive trail/guide which shall emphasize the natural resources on the island, the history of the island, and the habitat restoration occurring on the island.

Further, the project can be implemented with relatively no impact to Natural Resources. The trail shall either be constructed on bedrock or in upland where woodchips shall be

used as a base to minimize erosion. Some construction noise shall be a short term impact as the post and rope rail is installed up to the rocky outcrop. The barge and crane to haul away large debris shall also have some temporary noise and air impacts. Water quality impacts shall be minimal and related to short term disturbance of sediments while removing large debris from the island.

All work shall also be coordinated with the MA Historical Commission due to the presence of historical features such as the lighthouse and sensitive archeological resources. It is not anticipated that this proposal will have an adverse impact due to the minimal ground disturbance proposed. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Sincerely,

  
Sarah E. Porter  
Conservation Agent